

Mr. T. Wayne Gale, President
American Mosquito Control Association
1120 Route 73, Suite 200
Mount Laurel, New Jersey 08054

Dear Mr. Gale:

Thank you for your letter of Feb. 1, 2018, regarding the Biological Opinion of the National Marine Fisheries Service on chlorpyrifos, diazinon, and malathion. We recognize the importance of having mosquitocides available to combat the public health risks that mosquitoes pose.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is currently asking for input from stakeholders on the NMFS's jeopardy findings and will include your letter in the docket [[HYPERLINK "http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWfzPTEmbXNpZD0mYXVpZD0mbWFpbGluZ2lkPTlwMTgwMzIzLjg3NDUwOTQxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREltUFJELUJVTG0yMDE4MDMyMy44NzQ1MDk0MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3MjMyMDI4JmVtYWlsaWQ9c2IzY28uZGVhYmFzZXBhLmdvdiZ1c2VyaWQ9c2IzY28uZGVhYmFzZXBhLmdvdiZ0YXJnZXRpZD0mZmw9Jm12aWQ9JmV4dHJhPSYmJg==&&101&&https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=EPA-HQ-OPP-2018-0141"](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWfzPTEmbXNpZD0mYXVpZD0mbWFpbGluZ2lkPTlwMTgwMzIzLjg3NDUwOTQxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREltUFJELUJVTG0yMDE4MDMyMy44NzQ1MDk0MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3MjMyMDI4JmVtYWlsaWQ9c2IzY28uZGVhYmFzZXBhLmdvdiZ1c2VyaWQ9c2IzY28uZGVhYmFzZXBhLmdvdiZ0YXJnZXRpZD0mZmw9Jm12aWQ9JmV4dHJhPSYmJg==&&101&&https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=EPA-HQ-OPP-2018-0141)] at [[HYPERLINK "http://www.regulations.gov"](http://www.regulations.gov)]. The EPA will forward to the NMFS for its consideration all public comments we receive on this Biological Opinion.

Our request for input is necessary because of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington's decision not to extend the NMFS's court-ordered deadline. The NMFS had to issue the final Biological Opinion in December 2017 without having received input from the public and applicants (pesticide registrants). This was at odds with the EPA's public stakeholder process for Endangered Species Act consultations – an open and transparent process supported by the Services, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the EPA.

This input will be considered prior to either reinitiating consultation on the Biological Opinion or implementing the opinion's measures. The EPA will evaluate the comments received to determine how to proceed with respect to the final Biological Opinion, whether the alternatives or measures can reasonably be implemented, and whether there are different measures that may provide equivalent protection but result in less impact on pesticide users.

We appreciate your comments. If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact me. I look forward to speaking at your Annual Washington Conference on May 16, 2018, regarding these issues.

Sincerely,

Marietta Echeverria, Director
Environmental Fate and Effects Division
Office Pesticide Programs